

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Takuji MAEDA et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned
Appl. No. : 10/578,372 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/016421)
I.A. Filed : November 5, 2004 Confirmation No. : Not Yet Assigned
For : INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM, INFORMATION RECORDING
MEDIUM ACCESSING DEVICE, AND AREA SETTING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-

1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents:

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-233795, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,606,707 to HIROTA et al., which issued on August 12, 2003. Applicants note that the Japanese document is cited on pages 1 and 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-272541, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this

document is cited on page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application;

- (3) ISO/IEC 9293, "Information Technology – Volume and file structure of disk cartridge for information," (1994). Applicants note that this document is cited on page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application; Applicants note that reproduction of this article is not permitted pursuant to a non-disclosure agreement, and thus, a copy of this document is not provided herewith;
- (4) Optical Storage Technology Association, "Universal Disk Format Specification Revision 1.50)," (1997). Applicants note that this document is cited on page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application.
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. SHO 63-276626, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. SHO 60-254460, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (7) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-179758, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (8) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005-0216684 to SO et al, which was published on September 29, 2005;
- (9) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005-0231765 to SO et al, which was published on October 20, 2005;

- (10) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006-0050622 to SO et al, which was published on March 9, 2006;
- (11) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/546,453 to INOUE et al, which was filed on February 19, 2004;
- (12) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/577,418 to MAEDA et al., which was filed on April 27, 2006; and
- (13) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/578,373 to SO et al., which was filed on May 5, 2006.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to PCT/JP2004/016421, of which the above-captioned application is a U.S. National Stage Application. Copies of the International Search Report (in Japanese and English) have been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus have been brought to the attention of the Examiner:

- (14) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No.2001-014441, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family members U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003-0221103 to HIROTA et al., which was published on November 27, 2003, and European Patent Application Publication No. EP 1 050 887, which was published on November 8, 2000;
- (15) Bill Ball et al. (translated by Naoto ISHIKAWA), "Kaitei 3 Han Hyojun Red Hat Linux Reference," Red Hat Kabushiki Kaisha (August 1, 2001), pages 58-62. An English language version of this document is not presently available to Applicants; and

- (16) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No.2002-202902, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family members U.S. Patent No. 6,901,497 to TASHIRO et al., which issued on May 31, 2005, and European Patent Application Publication No. EP 1 331 567.

The relevance of the documents cited in the International Search Report, as ascertained by the International Examiner, are set forth in the International Search Report.

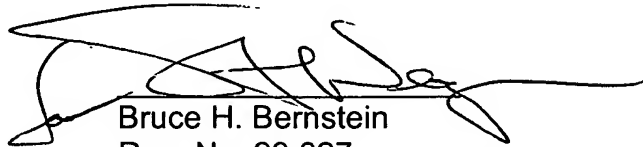
Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent, patent application publications and patent applications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, with the exception of document (3), are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Takuji MAEDA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', written over a horizontal line.

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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P29896Application No.
10/578,372INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)Applicant
Takuji MAEDA et al.Filing Date
November 5, 2004Group
Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|------|-----------------|----------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | | 6 6 0 6 7 0 7 | 08/12/03 | HIROTA et al. | | | |
| | 2005 | 0 2 1 6 6 8 4 | 09/29/05 | SO et al | | | |
| | 2005 | 0 2 3 1 7 6 5 | 10/20/05 | SO et al | | | |
| | 2006 | 0 0 5 0 6 2 2 | 03/09/06 | SO et al | | | |
| | 2003 | 0 2 2 1 1 0 3 | 11/27/03 | HIROTA et al. | | | |
| | | 6 9 0 1 4 9 7 | 05/31/05 | TASHIRO et al. | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO |
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| | 2003 | - 2 3 3 7 9 5 | 08/22/03 | JAPAN | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | 1 | English Language Abstract of JP 2003-233795. |
| | 2 | English Language Abstract of JP 8-272541. |
| | 3 | ISO/IEC 9293, "Information Technology - Volume and file structure of disk cartridge for information," (1994). |
| | 4 | Optical Storage Technology Association, "Universal Disk Format Specification Revision 1.50)," (1997). |
| | 5 | English Language Abstract of JP 63-276626. |
| | 6 | English Language Abstract of JP60-254460. |
| | 7 | English Language Abstract of JP9-179758. |
| | 8 | English Language Abstract of JP 2001-014441. |
| | 9 | U.S. Patent Application No. 10/546,453 to INOUE et al, which was filed on February 19, 2004. |
| | 10 | U.S. Patent Application No. 10/577,418 to MAEDA et al., which was filed on April 27, 2006. |
| | 11 | U.S. Patent Application No. 10/578,373 to SO et al., which was filed on May 5, 2006. |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Atty. Docket No. P29896 | Application No. 10/578,372 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | Applicant Takuji MAEDA et al. | |
| | | Filing Date November 5, 2004 | Group Unknown |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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| | 12 | Bill Ball et al. (translated by Naoto ISHIKAWA), "Kaitei 3 Han Hyojun Red Hat Linux Reference," Red Hat Kabushiki Kaisha (August 1, 2001), pages 58-62. |
| | 13 | English Language Abstract of JP 2002-202902. |
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